

Filed for intro on 02/02/95  
House Bill \_\_\_\_\_  
By \_\_\_\_\_

Senate No. SB1261  
By Cohen

AN ACT to provide for the placement of a statue to honor Sequoya.

WHEREAS, Sequoya was a great Cherokee warrior who invented the Cherokee written language, the so-called "talking leaves"; and

WHEREAS, as a young man, Sequoya excelled in many fields of endeavor, and he was an exceptionally talented hunter, warrior, trader and an expert silver craftsman; and

WHEREAS, Sequoya was also an accomplished linguist who was fluent in French, Spanish and English, as well as his native tongue; and

WHEREAS, a proud and unbowed representative of his heritage and his people, Sequoya worked assiduously to preserve Cherokee culture; and

WHEREAS, Sequoya was implacably opposed to American intrusions into his people's tribal lands, and he heroically defended these tribal lands and courageously resisted the white man's intrusions for his entire life; and

WHEREAS, an intelligent man who intuitively recognized the great power of the written word, Sequoya developed a Cherokee syllabary of eighty-six (86) symbols by adopting letters of the English alphabet to represent sounds in the Cherokee tongue; he completed this monumental project in 1821; and

WHEREAS, in addition to inventing the Cherokee written language or “talking leaves”, Sequoya was also an instrumental force in establishing the popularity of the Cherokee syllabory, which led to the founding of the Cherokee Phoenix, a Cherokee language newspaper, on February 21, 1828; and

WHEREAS, Sequoya was selected as one of two Tennesseans to represent Tennessee in Monument Hall in the United States Capital; and

WHEREAS, because Sequoya lived for much of his life on Cherokee tribal lands that are now part of the State of Tennessee, it is most fitting that this General Assembly should take appropriate measures to honor Sequoya’s noble life of purpose, commitment and accomplishment and his numerous contributions to the proud Cherokee heritage; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. The State Building Commission is authorized to secure and arrange for the placement of a statue honoring the great Cherokee warrior Sequoya in the State Capitol or on the Capitol grounds.

SECTION 2. Such statue shall be a replica of the statue of Sequoya which was sculpted by Vinnie Ream Hoxie, completed by G. Julian Zolnay and first unveiled in 1917, and which statute presently resides at Monument Hall in Washington, D.C.

SECTION 3. The placement of such statue of Sequoya shall be subject to review by the State Capitol Commission, and approval by the State Building Commission.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

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